

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 2 previously was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 1 as including informalities. Specifically, the Examiner notes that there is an extra “25” inadvertently introduced into claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 so as to remove this typographical error.

The Examiner notes that claims 2-8 and 10 are objected to based on their dependence from claim 1. However, Applicants note that claim 2 has been canceled, and claim 10 is dependent from allowed claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 11 under §112, 1st paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the specification fails to provide any description that Vr is 0.65 to 0.95% when the product of Shore D hardnesses of inner and outer cover layers is 2,000 to less than 2,500. Applicants note that this is a typographical error introduced into the claim when editing the subject matter incorporated from claim 1. Accordingly, this range has been deleted from claim 11.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9 and 12 are allowed. Again, as noted above, Applicants believe this should include claim 10, which is dependent from claim 9.

Additionally, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under §112, and that claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection. As noted above, Applicants

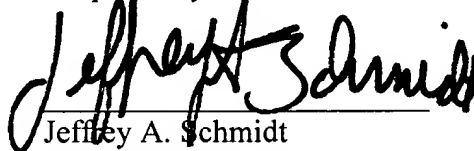
believe that this rejection and objection have been overcome, whereby claims 1, 3-8, and 11, should now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Schmidt
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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